

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4 and 7-15 are pending. Claims 5 and 6 are hereby canceled without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter. Applicant submits that the present response places the application in condition for allowance since all the pending claims incorporate allowable subject matter. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable claim 6 (the features of claim 5 are represented in claim 6). Allowed claim 8 is presented in independent form as new claim 12.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

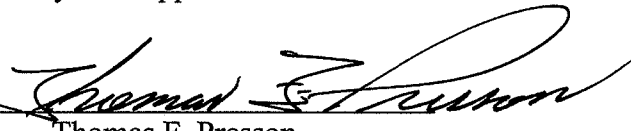
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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